

this year in

# Oregon

annual report 2008





# welcome from the director

Dear friends:

It has been a year of great achievements for The Nature Conservancy and our partners. In place after place, we are expanding the scale of our work and engaging growing numbers of people and communities in conservation.

Some of their stories are in the following pages. I hope you are as inspired by them as I am.

We have much to be thankful for. I am especially grateful for the passion each of you brings to the work of preserving the natural world that sustains us all – in Oregon and around the globe.

We also have much to look forward to. Leaders around the world are emerging to seriously address global warming and other critical conservation priorities, grounded in growing awareness that human well-being everywhere depends on healthy and resilient natural ecosystems.

We are appropriately cautious about the economic downturn, but now is no time to slow our efforts. As always, when opportunities for conservation arise, we need to be as strong as possible to take advantage of them. In some cases, those chances won't come again.

These developments come at a watershed moment for Oregon, for our nation and the planet. The human race stands at the threshold of a radically diminished natural world. Across the globe, we have no choice but to act with unprecedented wisdom, speed and resourcefulness.

To meet this challenge, The Nature Conservancy has launched the **Campaign for a Sustainable Planet** – a global call to action to double conservation efforts around the world and to protect 10 percent of every major habitat type on Earth by the year 2015.

It's an extremely ambitious – I would say audacious – plan to harness human spirit and ingenuity to achieve conservation at a scale never before seen.

On a global stage, Oregon may seem like a small place. But that's not the case when it comes to our natural heritage. As a leading program in the world's largest conservation organization, our responsibility as Oregonians is amplified.

Consider that every major habitat type on Earth – forests, oceans and coasts, deserts and aridlands, grasslands, lakes and rivers – occurs in Oregon. The conservation strategies we advance here reverberate in similar places around the world.

As a resourceful community of Oregonians – members, donors, trustees, partners, volunteers and staff – we have a tremendous responsibility and opportunity to help lead the way toward a sustainable planet. I am confident that, working together, we can transform an audacious vision into reality.

**Russell Hoeflich**

Vice President and Oregon Director



Members and partners of  
The Nature Conservancy are  
making a difference across  
Oregon and beyond, protecting  
important lands and waters for  
nature and people.



New acquisition in Hells Canyon.

## HAVEN IN HELLS CANYON

A monumental land deal in Northeast Oregon has The Nature Conservancy buying 27 parcels of land — more than 10 square miles — primarily in the heart of the rugged Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

Which raises the question: How many conservationists does it take to pull off a major land transaction? That's not a joke to Derek Johnson, the Conservancy's director of protection in Oregon. For nearly a year, he led negotiations on the project, navigating hurdles potentially as rough as the terrain.

"Seventeen," he says, "and counting. Our real estate staff; attorney; government relations staff; ecologists; technical mapping staff; financial analysts; our Oregon leadership team; even staff to the Conservancy's Board of Directors, which approves all major land transactions."

Also, Phil Shephard, conservation director in Northeast Oregon, is point person on the project. This summer, he walked all 27 parcels, mostly concentrated along seven miles of the Imnaha River and six miles of tributary creeks. He saw lots of migrant songbirds, elk, spawned-out salmon, and signs of bear and cougar. And evidence of ancient Nez Perce dwellings. "People and wildlife have lived together here for thousands of years," he said.

It's steep country, incised by creeks and ravines. "What struck me is how important these parcels are to public lands in the canyon. They follow the water, and that's where fish and wildlife concentrate. These lands are the gateways to hundreds of thousands of acres that are incredibly important biologically."

The 27 parcels are private inholdings surrounded by national forest. The U.S. Forest Service has sought them to protect important fish and wildlife habitat, consolidate its management and ensure public access. When a complex land exchange aiming to bring these lands into public ownership fell through last year, and the properties came on the market, the Service asked the Conservancy to help acquire them.

Shephard and Johnson worked closely with the local community to shape the outcome. "There's high regard for habitat conservation in Wallowa County," said Johnson, "but with 60 percent of the county already in public ownership, they weigh any increase carefully." After considering the benefits, local leaders agreed to support the acquisition.

The purchase price was \$739 million, covered by a loan from the Conservancy's internal revolving fund. The Forest Service will acquire the property from the Conservancy over several years. A grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to support protection for important lands identified in state wildlife action plans is helping to make this landmark purchase possible.

## FLOWING FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

For years, Leslie Bach studied Spanish. She'd pop cassettes into a walkman on her belt and listen to language tapes while making dinner.

Bach, the Oregon director of freshwater programs, has been involved in the Conservancy's work in Latin America for the last nine years. Her now-proficient language skills and freshwater expertise have

taken her to Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Costa Rica and now Colombia.

This year, Bach traveled to Colombia to work with local agencies and Conservancy colleagues in developing environmental flow recommendations for the Guatiquia River in Chingaza National Park — in the country's high elevation grasslands. The river is dammed and used as a major source of drinking water for Bogota, the capital city.

Natural flows of rivers and streams are critical to the health and viability of freshwater ecosystems, yet also provide vital resources for human communities. Often, though, the storage and diversion of water can alter seasonal flow patterns, stressing fish and wildlife adapted to more natural rhythms. Environmental flow restoration work identifies the ecosystem needs for water and then integrates that information into water management decisions to improve ecological conditions while still meeting human needs.

In Oregon, Bach has been working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine environmental flow requirements for the Willamette River and its tributaries. The Corps has begun using the information to shape seasonal flows from dams on key Willamette tributaries.

“The Willamette work is used as a case study and serves as a demonstration site for global efforts to influence water management,” Bach said.

In Colombia this March, team members brought their boots for

wading in rivers and streams. They visited sites in the foggy, rolling hills of the paramo grassland ecosystem and engaged in planning meetings with partners. Currently, they're collecting and compiling data. Early next year, the teams plan to convene a workshop of local experts to develop target flow recommendations and a monitoring plan.

## A FLOOD OF SUCCESS

Heather Hendrixson didn't intentionally leave her boss stranded without a vehicle, out on the slowly-flooding preserve. But she was there to rescue him — gingerly driving back through the mud and vegetation — while avoiding the incoming fingers of water.

Hendrixson, preserve director for the Conservancy's Williamson River Delta Preserve in Oregon's Klamath Basin, estimates that 300 acres on the south side of the preserve was flooded that November day when heavy machinery removed six key levees.

Last year, key levees were removed on the north side of the river and the fields were flooded. This year the Conservancy did the same on the other side — completing major construction phases of the restoration — having moved over 2.1 million cubic yards of dirt (equivalent to about 210,000 dump truck loads) and finally liberating this 6-mile stretch of river and the fish it carries into the vast floodplain it once fed.

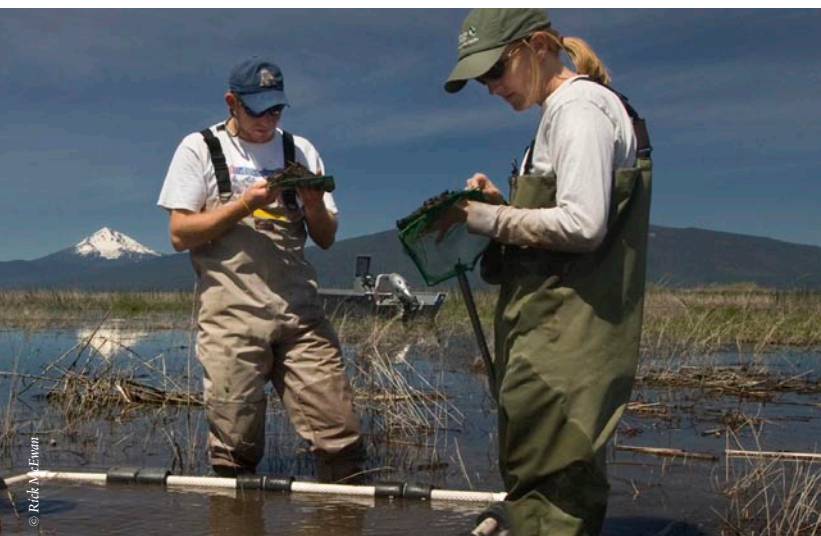
Next spring, when the lake level is at its highest, about 5,000 acres will now be under water. Just over a year ago, it was all dry fields.

Staff are working to analyze water quality data and fish population surveys done this spring. Larval fish, including the Lost River and shortnose suckers, two endangered fish species, were already found in newly restored areas and wetland plants, like tules, are beginning to emerge. The team's also looking to the upland portions of the preserve, where they're currently planting around 1,000 pounds of native grass seeds.

In the 1990s, stakeholders identified restoration of these wetlands as an important ecological step in the region. With partners, the Conservancy acquired over 11 square miles and began work on the \$9 million restoration project to advance the recovery of two endangered fish by restoring riparian and wetland habitats and improving water quality in Upper Klamath Lake.

“Having seen this as fields, and to see it now, it looks like it's always been wetlands,” Hendrixson said.

This spring, Heather Hendrixson, Williamson River Delta Preserve director (at right), and Charles Erdman, AmeriCorps conservation team member, worked on fish monitoring studies for larval shortnose and Lost River suckers.



At right: Conservancy Ecologist Keith Perchemlides, volunteer Belinda Lo, and AmeriCorps conservation team member Cara Conroy survey Oregon's first conservation bank, located at an Oregon Department of Transportation site near Medford.

Far right: Ken Popper, conservation planner and zoologist for the Conservancy, collects data for a genetic study on yellow rails – secretive marsh birds.



## INVESTING IN NATURE

Keith Perchemlides has spent years researching how to keep forests healthy. So imagine his surprise when, last spring, he was racing the seasonal clock to inventory Southwest Oregon's prairie wetlands.

"It was quite a steep learning curve," said Ecologist Perchemlides. "But, being new to the Conservancy, I really enjoyed discovering a foreign landscape, literally getting my feet wet in vernal pools and surveying the extraordinary natural wonders they support."

The terrain wasn't the only novel thing about where Perchemlides was working. The 80-acre site near Medford is the state's first conservation bank, established by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

A conservation bank is land set aside to protect endangered, threatened or at-risk species. In exchange for preserving the property's habitats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants credits to the landowner, who can then use them to offset environmental impacts of projects elsewhere, such as highways.

Like the Conservancy's adjacent Whetstone Savanna Preserve, the ODOT bank offers critical habitats to migrating birds and other species, including the threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp and the endangered large-flowered wooly meadowfoam. Potential habitat for the endangered Cook's desert parsley is also found here.

Assessment of the site is nearing completion — Perchemlides is studying oaks now. The next step is refining the management plan. With ODOT, Conservancy ecologists are recommending restoration activities including invasive species removal, which has already begun.

Conservation banks can be win-win for everyone — landowners, developers, the public and, of course, the flora and fauna they're protecting. "But spending my days outdoors, exploring an area never before studied and helping to preserve it," said Perchemlides, "well, let's just say I'm laughing all the way to the bank."

## CROSSING BORDERS FOR A RARE BIRD

Tornados were not in the plan.

Ken Popper, conservation planner and zoologist for the Conservancy in Oregon, recently crisscrossed the Midwest and parts of Canada with colleague Mike Green, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct genetic research on a small, secretive marsh bird: the yellow rail.

Somewhere in Wisconsin the tornado came on scene, its path running perpendicular to Popper and Green's road trip route. The two scanned radio reports and studied maps in the car hoping to cross the intersection point before the tornado. Luckily, they did.

For two weeks, the duo donned waders, headlamps and mosquito repellent, and, under the cover of night, slogged through marshes to find the shy birds — identified as a species of concern by federal agencies and listed as vulnerable in Canada.

Most of the yellow rail population summers east of the Rocky Mountains. However, a small breeding population is found in Oregon's Klamath Basin, rediscovered in the 1980s after having been thought extirpated from the region.

The question: are the eastern and western birds related? Genetic analysis will help determine if Oregon's isolated population is



genetically unique. Study results could influence habitat and species conservation and planning decisions.

For 13 years Popper has been studying the birds' range, behaviors and habitat and, at the Conservancy's Sycan Marsh Preserve, he worked with partners to collect blood samples from the Oregon yellow rail population.

With help from federal, state and private partners, Popper and Green covered thousands of miles to visit five sites on public and private land, and they collected blood samples from 60 individual birds.

The small yellow rail is known for its distinctive five-beat call, is heard at night and is rarely seen. The scientists must work at night, walking wet meadows, expertly clicking two rocks together. That sound, if done correctly, mimics the male's mating call. Hopefully, the rails will come running. Literally. (One even challenged Popper's boots to a fight by pecking on them.)

Once found, the birds, whose shallow wetland habitat is in steady decline, are carefully banded, measured, and blood is collected for genetic analysis. Samples are being analyzed by the U.S. Geological Survey at Oregon State University, and draft research findings are expected this spring.

"This research will hopefully shed light on the migratory path and wintering location of one of Oregon's rarest breeding birds, leading to continued conservation throughout its range," said Popper.

## DIGITAL HERO

Merriam-Webster defines retirement as "withdrawal from one's occupation and active working life." But don't tell David Berg that. After a 40-year career in information technology, he's just getting started.

A Conservancy member for more than three decades, Berg has, since retiring, generously volunteered thousands of hours, sharing his professional skills and personal passion with a team dedicated to improving the way conservation practitioners collaborate.

The impressive result is ConPro, a searchable Web database that allows practitioners to share and reapply information about Conservancy projects around the globe. Now in constant use, the innovative program is bridging communication gaps staff have



Volunteer David Berg (second from left), at ConEx with fellow Oak Leaf Award winners and Mark Tercek, The Nature Conservancy's president and CEO (far right).

struggled with for years.

"Before ConPro, the Conservancy managed critical information on local desktop computers," said Dan Salzer, conservation measures manager. "This valuable data was not accessible beyond individual offices, making it extremely difficult for people to connect and learn from others working on similar issues. David's contributions to the ConPro team have helped multiply the Conservancy's global impact on conservation by creating this powerful tool."

Berg puts it simply. "I believe one's life has to contain something that adds value back to the natural world," he said. "While I do enjoy retirement, I wouldn't be satisfied without helping to preserve Earth's biodiversity."

For his dedication and achievement, Berg was presented with the Oak Leaf Award, the Conservancy's highest award to an individual. The ceremony took place in October at ConEx, a global forum of more than 1,000 leading conservation practitioners, philanthropists, corporations and academics.

## A NOSE FOR NATIVE SPECIES

Rogue prefers his steak medium-well. But when it comes to sniffing out a rare plant, the dog performs work that's very well done, indeed.

The 4-year-old Belgian sheepdog is part of a Conservancy collaborative project to test the efficacy of using dogs to sniff out Kincaid's lupine, the rare host plant for an endangered butterfly, found only in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Using detector dogs for such inventory work is new territory: No one's tried it before.



Rogue, the 4-year-old Belgian sheepdog, waits for a treat from his handler after he successfully located Kincaid's lupine, a threatened Willamette Valley native prairie plant.

Rogue's reward for finding the correct plant: that steak. (Or sometimes mackerel.)

The project was the idea of Greg Fitzpatrick, land steward for the Conservancy. He and colleagues have been tracking Fender's blue butterfly populations and working to improve their habitat for more than a decade. Less than 2 percent of historic upland prairie and oak habitat — crucial to both the lupine and the butterfly — remain in the valley.

Fitzpatrick pitched the dog idea to Dave Vesely, a local ecologist. Vesely contacted the Working Dogs for Conservation Foundation in Montana, and the team decided to give it a try.

"There's nothing more fun than being out working with these dogs in the morning, when the birds are singing, and you know you're doing good conservation work," Vesely said. "I just love it."

They first worked to test the theory that dogs can distinguish one type of plant from other species within a plant community. This year, three dogs worked in eight locations — running over a mile of transects and putting their accuracy to the test. On 364 plots, the dogs made only six errors.

The team is still scrutinizing its research and a paper is expected soon. More accurate maps of the Kincaid's lupine could promote the butterfly's recovery and contribute to larger habitat goals for other wildlife as well.

## ADAPTING TO A WARMER WORLD

For over 10 years, Allison Aldous has been beating the drum about global warming. In the beginning, not everyone would listen (even coworkers). Now they do.

Aldous, the Conservancy's director of conservation research and monitoring in Oregon, is our climate change science go-to. Her academic background in wetland ecology, biogeochemistry and nitrogen cycling gave her a head start. She spends half her time on climate change science, specifically adaptation.

Most discussion around climate change is about mitigation — how to stem greenhouse gas emissions and slow the warming. The Nature Conservancy supports legislation designed to do that. But there's an equally critical challenge. How do we adapt to changes already underway? How do we help fish, wildlife and ecosystems thrive in a warmer world?

"We know so much about how to conserve and manage natural systems," Aldous said. "We need to put climate change adaptation on top of that, and understand what we'd do differently to prepare our natural world for what's coming."

Recently Aldous worked with the new Oregon Global Warming Commission to develop concepts and strategies for adaptation. Russell Hoeflich, the Conservancy's vice president and Oregon director, serves on the commission.

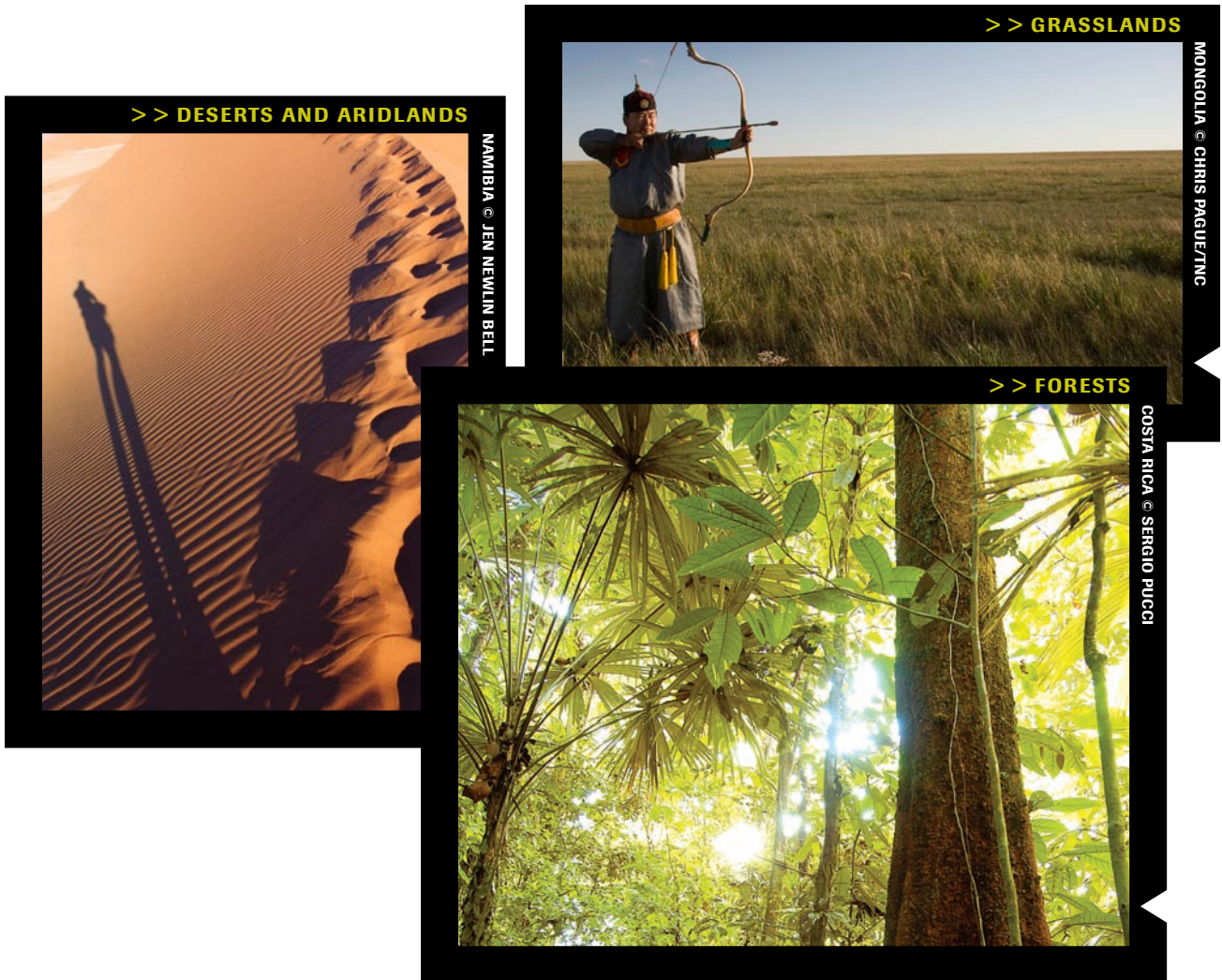
The commission, a 25-member advisory group created by the 2007 Legislature, is composed of a diverse range of experts in the social, environmental, cultural and economic interests. This year it worked to craft recommendations for the 2009 legislative session.

"One of the important contributions we've made to the commission is bringing adaptation into the picture," Aldous said. "[The commission] was primarily concerned with reducing emissions, which is a very important thing. But, no matter what we do with reductions, we also need to figure out how to adapt the natural world to changes already happening."

**GO ONLINE:** <http://tinyurl.com/56zrs3>

See a report on Oregon's adaptation strategies for global warming on the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Web site.

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**CAMPAIGN FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET,**  
a worldwide call to action  
to protect Earth's natural resources  
for future generations.



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# CAMPAIGN *for a* SUSTAINABLE PLANET

The **Campaign for a Sustainable Planet** will dramatically expand the scope, scale and pace of conservation action around the world in the coming decade.

Our ambitious goal is to protect at least 10 percent of the world's major habitat types by 2015. With less than 5 percent of the planet's lands and waters under protected status, the Conservancy will strive, with partners, to double the amount of conservation achieved over the past century.

The campaign will achieve significant, conservation results in each of the world's five major habitat types — forests, oceans and coasts, lakes and rivers, grasslands, and deserts and aridlands.

And the campaign will also equip the Conservancy to work effectively on global conservation strategies, climate change and gaps in the world's conservation capacity.

We have much to achieve through the campaign. And everyone's help is needed. The goals are beyond what we — or any other institution — have attempted, and we cannot do it alone.

We will partner with governments, businesses, nonprofits, communities and individuals. We will work with economically challenged communities to preserve the lands and waters they rely on. We will also work with world leaders to address borderless threats such as global warming.

In Oregon, all our conservation work advances the goals of the campaign. We have special responsibilities to help lead two important initiatives:



### North Pacific Marine project

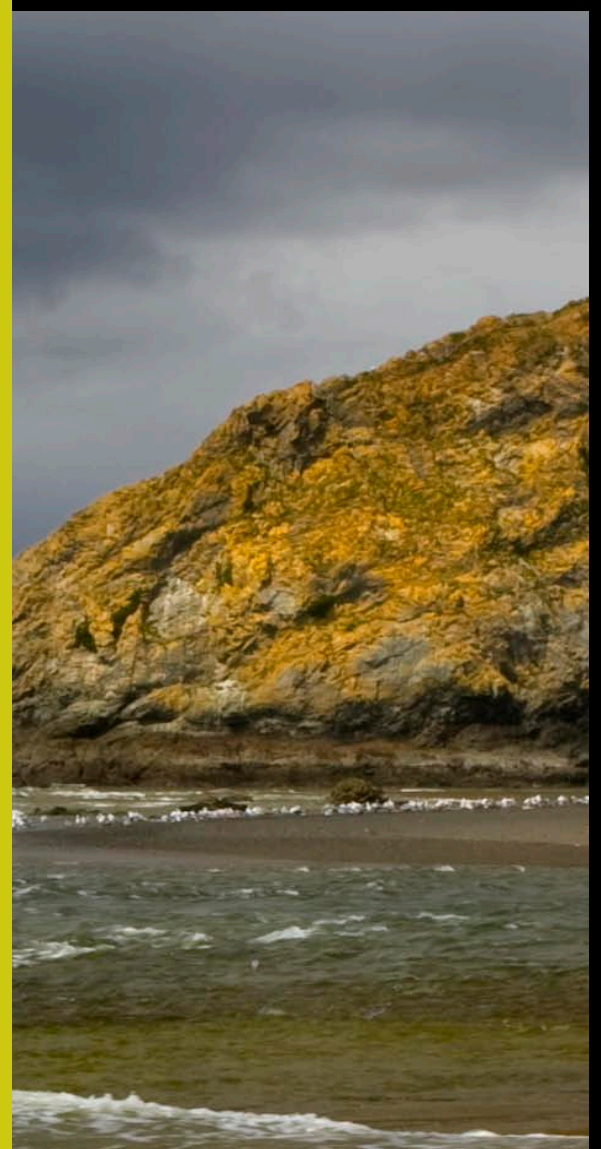
conserving coastal habitats from Baja to the Bering Sea



### Pacific Salmon Ecosystems project

advancing global efforts to save wild Pacific salmon

Only with your help can we work towards realizing this vision — to ensure the health and survival of the natural world that sustains us all.



## >> LAKES AND RIVERS



WILLAMETTE RIVER © STEPHEN ANDERSON/TNC

# thank you

Your generous support makes  
our conservation successes possible.

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The following Oregon donors have made gifts of \$1,000 or more to programs or projects outside the state of Oregon between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

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We are pleased to recognize the following individuals who notified us between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008 of their intent to remember the Conservancy in their will or estate plans or have funded a life income gift. Their legacy of protected natural areas will be a lasting gift to future generations.

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Cape Lookout, Oregon coast © Derek Johnson/TNC

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*Contact The Nature Conservancy today to find out how you can take advantage of this opportunity to make a gift that will fund our work in Oregon and around the world.*



**contact:** Wes Milligan

**phone:** (503) 802-8100

**e-mail:** [wmilligan@tnc.org](mailto:wmilligan@tnc.org)

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Volunteers seed native Olympia oyster larvae into Netarts Bay.

## first comes the seed

On the Oregon coast is a small business whose owners have made an extraordinary gift to return a keystone species to Netarts Bay.

**Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery**, one of the West Coast's largest producers of commercial shellfish seed, is helping to restore native Olympia oysters. Owners Sue Cudd and Mark Weigardt have generously donated nearly 50 million native oyster larvae to be seeded into the bay since 2005. Encouraging results have inspired the Conservancy to expand the effort into Yaquina Bay with additional partners and with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Native oysters up and down the West Coast have dwindled to very low numbers, edged out of bays and estuaries by overharvest, habitat loss and non-native predators. Oysters help cleanse coastal waters and form reefs that provide habitat for many other species including juvenile salmon.

"The Olympia oyster is a small creature with potentially a big role in restoring healthy coastal ecosystems," said Dick Vander Schaaf, Oregon coast and marine conservation director. "Sue and Mark understand that, and that's why they've been strong champions for restoring native shellfish."

For their generous dedication to collaboration, healthy oyster rearing and conservation, the Conservancy presented Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery with the 2008 Business Partner Conservation Leadership Award in October.

## conservation leadership

Honoring individuals, businesses and community partners for their commitment to protecting Oregon's natural lands and waters, The Nature Conservancy hosted its eighth annual Conservation Leadership Awards luncheon at the Oregon Zoo in October.

Award winners included Ned and Sis Hayes (see following facing page), Oregon Public Broadcasting (following page) and Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery (at left).

"Oregon is rich in its diversity of habitats for fish and wildlife," said Russell Hoeflich, vice president and Oregon director. "It's our honor to recognize the exceptional leadership of those who are helping keep it that way."

Over 375 people attended the event, with the keynote address by Dr. Carl Safina, award-winning author and president of the Blue Ocean Institute (below, with Hoeflich). Safina gave a hope-inspiring presentation on our changing ocean and how everything humans do — both on land and at sea — affects the waters, wildlife and people of our world.

Presenting sponsor of the Conservation Leadership Awards was The ODS Companies, with major support from *The Oregonian*.

Dr. Carl Safina and Russell Hoeflich



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# invasives fight club

After doing TV work on invasive species, Jeff Douglas started seeing the problem in his own neighborhood. He began eradicating English ivy, blackberries and other invasives.

Invasives are on his radar.

Douglas, senior vice president and station manager for **Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB)**, used to work for the Oregon Field Guide program. He noticed a recurring pattern: several stories a year were about invasive species.

He proposed that OPB produce a documentary, twinned with an awareness and action campaign. The station said OK. Douglas then called the Conservancy, SOLV and others and, together, they launched the “Stop the Invasion” campaign in April.

OPB’s documentary, “The Silent Invasion,” spearheaded the effort. Partners developed “GardenSmart Oregon,” a booklet recommending alternatives to invasive plants for the yard and garden.

Other partners are in on the act. SOLV is mobilizing volunteers to combat invasives statewide. The Oregon Invasives Species Council is leading a stateside assessment of resources, capacity

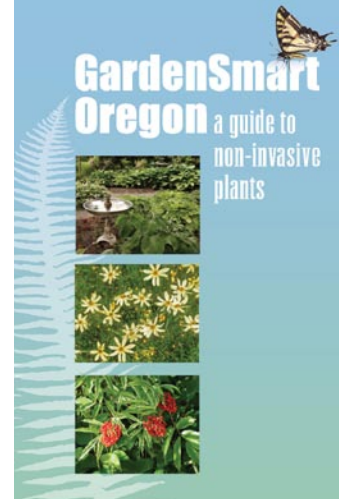
and unmet needs to address the problem.

Scientists have long grumbled that invasive species — non-native flora and fauna that displace our native plants and animals — endanger forests, grasslands, streams, estuaries and our economy.

And the statistics are staggering. Invasives threaten nearly half of the 958 at-risk or endangered plants and animals in Oregon. And just 21 invasive weeds cause \$83 million dollars of damage annually to Oregon agriculture.

It’s easy for anyone to make an impact, Douglas said. Pull ivy. Clean the bottom of your boat. Shake the seeds off your hiking boots. “[Invasive species] is an issue, even more than with global warming,” he said, “where the individual can make a big difference.”

For their dedication, creativity and resourcefulness in addressing one of the leading conservation challenges of our time, the Conservancy presented OPB with the 2008 Community Partner Conservation Leadership Award in October.



## preventive measures



© Mandy Tu/TNC  
“Weed watcher” Coordinator Tania Siemens explains the difference between invasive and native grasses.

Tania Siemens is looking for trouble. With the help of over 100 volunteers trained this year, she’s finding it. Her teams are detecting and removing invasive plants from Oregon’s ecologically important natural areas.

Siemens, coordinator for the Conservancy’s Early Detection, Rapid Response program, teaches people how to identify and report new invaders. Armed with keen eyes and patience, her ‘weed watchers’ scan landscapes regularly to spot problematic invasives before they get established. After volunteers report findings — like yellow starthistle at Lower Table Rock Preserve or garlic mustard at Camassia Natural Area — ecologists strategize how to best respond.

Lessons learned from this extremely cost-effective new approach are being shared with a network of agency partners and others as five new pilot projects have been launched across the state.

“Anyone can watch for weeds,” said Siemens. “Gardeners, hunters, hikers, anyone. You just need to know what to look for and, together, we can stop invasive problems before it’s too late.”



# quietly conserving nature

Working in harmony with the land and acting to protect it are family traditions for **Ned and Sis Hayes**.

Quietly following in the footsteps of Ned's father — Edmund Hayes Sr., who was a pioneer in the Oregon timber industry and actively promoted forest protection — they've spent their lives cultivating a commitment to Oregon's forests and other important natural areas.

As members of The Nature Conservancy for more than 30 years, Ned and Sis have explored widely and given generously to protect Sycan Marsh, Zumwalt Prairie and many other special places. Recently they also provided seed capital enabling the Conservancy to launch a major forest conservation initiative in Oregon.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. They understood a long time ago how critical it is to get kids and young people in direct contact with the natural world — both for their own well-being and for the future of the planet.

Ned was a founder of Northwest Outward Bound and a longtime leader of the Student Conservation Association. On the board of the World Forestry Center, he's championed the Magness Memorial Tree Farm, helping thousands of kids experience nature up close.

Passionate about Oregon and the Northwest, Sis has been active with

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the arts and more.

"Ned and Sis have made giving back to the community a cornerstone of their life together," said Russell Hoeflich, vice president and Oregon director. "We're so grateful for their passionate regard for the natural world and their generous commitments to preserve it."

Shepherding land is a way of life for Ned and Sis, and they've worked to pass that ethic to the next generation. Their son, Peter, a former environmental educator, now continues the tradition his family began. With his wife, Pam, he manages 800 acres of sustainable, working forests in the northern Coast Range.

"Ned and Sis raised their family to explore and love the outdoors, and that's something they've shared with a wide circle of friends," said Hoeflich. "They've also extended that passion to the wider community. That's what makes them leaders."

For their lifelong dedication to sustainable resource management, environmental education and protection for special places, the Conservancy presented Ned and Sis with the 2008 Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award in October.



Top left: Forest along the Sandy River.

At left: Ned, Peter and Sis Hayes with Russell Hoeflich at the Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve.



# conservation heroes

Each year, we honor exceptional volunteers who advance The Nature Conservancy's mission in Oregon. We are delighted to announce the 2008 Ray C. Davis Volunteer of the Year Award winners, **Jeff Clark** and **Carl Nielsen**.



Jeff Clark

Since he began volunteering at Camassia Natural Area four years ago, **Jeff Clark** has truly been a positive force. Averaging 20 hours each week, he's patrolled dozens of acres there and at Sandy River Gorge Preserve, removing English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scots broom and other invasive species. And his efforts haven't stopped there. Clark's also improved trails and boardwalks and helped to grow native plants for habitat restoration. He's even assisted with publications by sharing his professional expertise as a former print shop owner.

"Jeff's steady work is like having an additional, full-time staff member with the Portland preserves crew," said Kyle Strauss, the Conservancy's AmeriCorps program coordinator. "His energy and work ethic are inspiring, and his sense of humor makes him a joy to work with." Clark is honored to lend nature a hand. "I just want to do anything I can to help The Nature Conservancy succeed in its noble and essential mission," he said.



Carl Nielsen

**Carl Nielsen** joined the Conservancy's Oregon volunteer team in 2001, in part because he felt the human race could do a better job of caring for the planet. After meeting Conservancy staff and other volunteers, he knew he'd found the right place to pitch in and make a difference, so he started coming in each Wednesday to assist with transcriptions, mailings, data management, filing and more. He quickly became a key member of the philanthropy department.

"Carl is an incredible asset to the Oregon program," said Cynthia Beckwith, associate director of philanthropy. "He is committed, reliable and professional. We feel fortunate to have him on our team." With more than 900 volunteer hours logged, Nielsen said he feels very good about contributing his time and effort to an organization that is accomplishing so much.

Congratulations and genuine thanks to both Jeff and Carl. Without dedicated supporters like you, our successes would not be possible.

# financial information

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon<sup>1</sup>  
(fiscal year ending June 30, 2008)

## support and revenue

Contributions (individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations)	7,658,546
Grants and contracts	6,796,873
Investment income	(1,636,550)
Sales of land to government and other conservation agencies	4,403,931
Gifts of land	5,000
Internal transfers and other revenue	2,651,571
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$19,879,371</b>

## asset, liability and net asset summary

	2008	2007
Conservation lands	39,868,357	42,982,503
Investments held for land acquisitions	9,928,232	6,560,465
Endowment investments	25,221,611	27,004,020
Property and equipment (net of depreciation)	3,189,228	3,177,925
Operations cash, reserves and gov't receivables	1,675,973	1,427,346
Other assets	2,118,545	2,168,525
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$82,001,946</b>	<b>\$83,320,784</b>
Total liabilities	5,303,208	7,130,441
Total net assets	76,698,738	76,190,343
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$82,001,946</b>	<b>\$83,320,784</b>

## expenses and capital allocations

Conservation programs	12,089,934
Purchases of conservation lands and easements	1,103,694
Communications and outreach	826,562
General and administrative	556,230
Fundraising	522,839
Support for Conservancy priorities outside Oregon	1,157,571

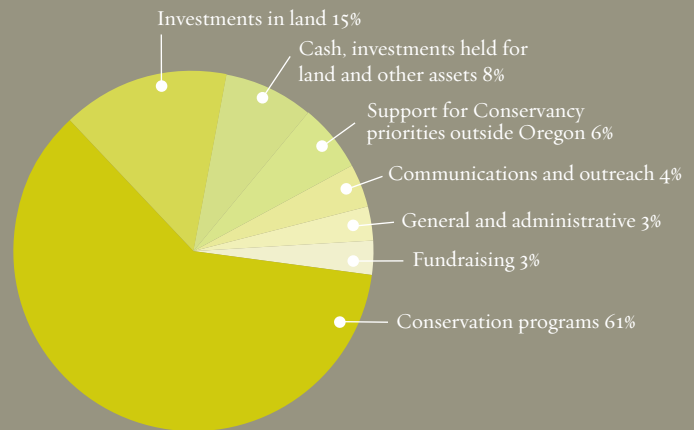
**TOTAL EXPENSES AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS** **\$16,256,830**

NET RESULT: SUPPORT AND REVENUE  
less EXPENSES AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

Endowment growth	(1,782,409)
Investments held for land acquisition	3,367,767
Net decrease in operating reserves and cash	248,627
Net payments on loans for acquired land	1,827,233
Other assets and depreciation	(38,677)

**TOTAL** **\$3,622,541**

## uses of funds and gifts



<sup>1</sup> These unaudited figures represent The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. For comparable figures for The Nature Conservancy as a whole, please contact us.

## the nature conservancy in oregon

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This year, over 900 volunteers, including an AmeriCorps team, dedicated over 45,000 hours to protecting Oregon's critical habitats.

**The Nature Conservancy** is a leading conservation organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

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*Little Cultus Lake in Oregon's East Cascades © Kenneth Popper*



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